

tinent, we have no hesitation in stating that this same Hudson Bay Company is one of the most absurd anomalies that ever existed within the limits of a free nation. At all events, its existence checks our growth, retards our union with our brethren of the Pacific coast, and prevents the due development of our resources, by diverting the commerce which should be ours into foreign channels—thus enriching certain speculators whose sole object is to fill their own coffers by monopolizing that trade which is ours by birthright. The people of Canada, therefore, if really desirous of promoting their own interests and the general welfare of the country, should unite as one man in calling upon their representatives in Parliament to take such steps as would induce the Home Government to abolish this glaring anomaly. Should they thus unite, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that ere many years elapse this iniquitous monopoly will be a thing of the past.

A great mountain range, called the Laurentian Chain, runs along the northern confines of Canada, parallel to the line of the St. Lawrence and great lakes. It extends from the eastern coast of Labrador to the western shores of Lake Superior, where it diverges into two chains—one running north-west, and the other south-west. From the point of divergence, they gradually lose their mountain character, and expand into high plateaus, occasionally crested with isolated ridges; but, as they approach the Rocky Mountains, they again assume cyclopean proportions. The Laurentian range, including the two chains alluded to, is probably the greatest watershed of North America. Rivers rising in its mysterious solitudes flow into the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific Oceans. Some of those flowing into the Hudson Bay are nearly 2,000 miles in length. The noble Ottawa rises in the main range, and the great Mississippi has its source in that chain which deflects to the south-west.

The cold of the regions north of the Laurentian Mountains is extremely severe, and, under existing circumstances, they can

never be settled by the Anglo-Saxon race. For several months of the year the thermometer ranges at 50 to 53 deg. below zero; or, in other words, the climate in winter is twice as cold as that of Canada. The breath escaping from the mouth is instantaneously frozen on the face, raising blisters on the same, and producing a sensation similar to that which a person would experience were red-hot sand scattered over the flesh. The days in summer vary in length from seventeen hours on the confines of Canada to four and even six months in the extreme north. The climate of Canada would be much more severe in winter, were it not for the protection afforded by the Laurentian Mountains against the icy winds of the north.

Those vast regions, included between the Rocky Mountains and the two ranges deflecting (S. W. and N. W.) from Lake Superior, are usually designated the "Great North-West." This is that primeval wilderness which, in all probability, is destined to become the Scythia of America—the granary of the world—the home of a hundred millions of freemen. This immense territory includes Red River, Swan River, the "Republic of Manitoba," and the Saskatchewan. It also embraces the embryo settlements of Peace River, English River, Cumberland, and Athabasca. These vast regions contain rivers which rival the Richelieu and Ottawa in size and beauty, and lakes as large as Erie or Ontario. The soft and genial breezes of the Pacific seas cross the Rocky Mountains, and, in unison with the warm winds of the south, temper the climate of these western regions; so that the extremes experienced in Canada are totally unknown south of the Saskatchewan and Peace Rivers. The rivers and lakes are numerous, and well stocked with fish. Their shores are generally well lined with forest, in which game is very abundant. Some trees attain gigantic proportions, and vegetation is so gorgeous and exuberant as to rival that of Texas. The great plains between the rivers, being generally desti-